



National Disabled Veterans *Winter Sports Clinic*

Skier Profile

Michael Brickert – Man of Three Services

Michael Brickert, 62, of Wise River, Montana, has fought in three different wars, served in three different services, and has an unwavering desire to live life to the fullest.

Brickert fought in Vietnam as a Navy diver. During Operation Desert Storm, he went from being an Army Reserve drill sergeant to pulling personal security detail. Then, after switching over to the Washington Air National Guard to serve as first sergeant of the 462nd Air Expeditionary Group, he was deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom to Diego Garcia.

During his last deployment, Brickert was injured while riding a bicycle and slamming into an ammunition truck that stopped suddenly in front of him. The crash left him paralyzed from the chest down, but this extraordinary man wasn't going to let the unusual accident stop him.

He has participated in several National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinics and has come to love cross-country, downhill skiing and sled hockey.

"Life's different, but hasn't changed a whole lot," Brickert said. "It's not like we can't do the things we used to do. We just do them differently."

He says that the things you learn at the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic can't be learned anywhere else, and interacting with other disabled Veterans really lifts your spirits.

When Brickert first came to the Clinic, he learned from the experience of others. Now, he feels fortunate that he is able to share his knowledge with first-time participants. He says living a full life is up to the individual, disability or not.

"Life is all about attitude," Brickert said. "If you stay positive, then life will always be good."

